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P I C T U R E S

O F

M E N, M A N N E R S,

A N D T H E

T I M E S.



P I C T U R E S
O F
M E N, M A N N E R S,
A N D T H E
T I M E S;
Interperfed with
DESCRIPTIONS of the COUNTRY,
A N D
R U R A L E N J O Y M E N T S.

Written in the Year 1777.

I N T W O V O L U M E S.

V O L. H.

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P I C T U R E S

O F

MEN, MANNERS, and the TIMES, &c.

C H A P. XXI.

REMARKABLE DELICACY *of the*
TIMES.

THE refinements in letters and in taste seem to advance in proportion as a people decline in their morals, and in every quality that ennobles the human heart.

If we compare the manners of the peerless inhabitants of this country

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to

to their notions of decorum, a dreadful incongruity will be the consequence.

To bring this matter to a criterion, by which we can judge of it without prolixity or loss of time, we will immediately advert to the extreme delicacy of the people of this age respecting our theatrical exhibitions.

The nicety of the feelings of the audience is carried to such an extravagant length on all these occasions, that one would think it would put a stop to the propagation of the species, and that the sexes could not possibly be so indecent as to go to bed together, if the position was not entirely over-
balanced

balanced on the other side of the question; and that it might as reasonably be expected procreation would be suppressed by their actual debaucheries.

It is laughable to see a polite audience damn a poor devil of an author and his play for a trifling portion of indelicacy, which for the soul of him he could not help, when, at the same time, the history of gallantry never furnished matter of such astonishing lewdness as the transactions of the present æra.

Our good grandmothers would sit at one of Wycherley's plays, and laugh at his wit and his bawdy until

their sides shook, and yet they were not half so remarkable for making cuckolds of their husbands as the polished females of these times, with whom the most trifling innuendo passes under the censure of vulgarity, and, on that account, is more inadmissible than the actual commission of the most lamentable of crimes,

Our forefathers would chuckle at a lascivious conceit, but shudder at the idea of carrying it into execution, while their *polished* progeny pretend to be shocked at the most trifling *indecentcy*, but make a *prostitute* a necessary appendage to their retinue.

These

These inconsistencies of character, which must daily occur to every man in his observations upon the manners of the present times, can only be solved into something like an old adage—that we are grown too indecent in our actions to bear with the least semblance of them in the works of authors.

Hence we have sentimental plays, without sense or character; novels inapplicable to the manners of the age, and, in all other productions of amusement, except where individuals are attacked, so prolific are we in our ideas of chastity, that nothing which

is marked with the exact likeness of our pursuits will be suffered.

This pest of refinement, under the article of delicacy, will not admit of plain truths, exhibited in the indignant style of a satirist who feels what he writes, and who utters the genuine sentiments of his heart. We must be tickled with our crimes; and every error of our lives must be touched with the pleasantry of a joke, and in such a manner as to prompt us to laugh at our faults, and to make us in love with the most inexcusable of our transactions. The rod of satire must be tipt with velvet, so that the strokes shall be soft and captivating, and

and that the culprit, as well as the observer, shall be charmed with the flagellation.

Our poetry must be conveyed in a jingle of terms, smooth, harmonious, and sweet, while the satire must be overwhelmed in a cloud of metaphors, and the moral require great pains and judgment in the reader to find it out.

In this chicanery of writing consists the beauty of style, as exhibited according to the rules of refinement, and those established forms which meet with general approbation.

Our prose must run in a regular stream of delightful periods. No offensive or boisterous terms, however necessary, must be admitted to deform the graceful tide. The description of a storm must, therefore, appear like an April shower; and the roaring of a flood as the murmuring of the gurgling rill. A bloody battle must lull you into a delightful repose; and an earthquake rock you to sleep. The rattling of the elements must seem like the harmony of the spheres; and universal chaos as the display of order and regularity. A fault in grammar, or an inadvertency of expression, must be considered as a greater disgrace to a work.

a work than a feebleness of thought, or a poverty of ideas ; and the whole merit of a piece must be concentrated in its CORRECTNESS.

Thus our refinements in letters, and in taste, absorb all the striking powers and energy of language.

The shackles with which this pestilence of refinement bind the powers of the mind, and the rules which are multiplied, *ad infinitum*, and which contract the efforts of genius within such narrow and contemptible limits, are, no doubt, the cause of the present dearth of originality among the numerous productions of all kinds which are offered to the public.

In law cases, whenever any thing which carries the appearance of novelty arises, great pains are taken by the learned judges to find out *precedents*; and if the search fail them, they are all in the dark, and cannot tell what to make of the matter. This respect to *precedents* has the same effect on letters; for when any thing new, or out of the common track, makes its appearance in the world, the records are immediately searched, the ancients and most respectable moderns are ransacked, and, if no authority can be gained by the inquiry, the author and his book are, of course, reprobated as a couple of illegitimates, and very gravely

gravely consigned to the shades of oblivion.

Hence we have such a multiplicity of performances so perfectly in the same strain, that, bating the difference of ability in the different writers of them, there is not the least glimmering of novelty in the whole. The tyranny of precept and example has such a dreadful effect upon all adventurers in the manner and style of their productions, and they do so minutely copy each other in these respects, that the perusal of a page or two of any one of them fixes your attention in the pursuit of an old story, and affords you not the least expectation of any thing.

thing but what you have read of a thousand times before.

We are not content with scourging to death every wicked wight who starts up and strives to outleap the bounds which we have fixed, by our glorious rules of refinement, for the measure of his flight, but we must fall foul of the godlike Shakespeare, and rob him of the greatest of his treasures.

Those numerous and genuine pictures of nature, which he has given us in his portraits of the common people, must be expunged from his works, because they are rude and indecent ;
and

and the grave-diggers in Hamlet must be banished the stage, as a couple of vulgar dogs, unfit to appear before a polite audience, notwithstanding their quaint jokes and rude manners present an exact picture of low life, and the scene itself one of the most bewitching specimens of morality that ever was wrought by the human intellect.

That the real son of Shakespeare, who, with his magic powers of representation, has exhibited the mighty bard to the world in all the glory of his genius, should pander to the enfeebled taste of the times, and banish Yorick's skull, and the inimitable reflections of the young prince upon it,

the ease and comfort of society, nor obtrude its baleful influence upon the pleasures of the banquet. Love beamed from the eyes of the chearful nymphs, irradiating all around, and giving the heart-felt zest to the jocund scene. Pleasure prompt the jolly swains, and urged them to merry feats and active deeds. All was rapture, extacy, and delight. Mirth and good humour spread their downy wings over the treat, and reciprocal bonds of friendship sprung from the revel-rout. The light-footed lasses led up the sprightly dance, and the enamoured youths tripped to the pipe and tabor. The spacious hall echoed to the lively strains, and redoubled the notes of merry

merry exultation ; while the aged fires were engaged in recollective garrulous recitals, and tales of former times beguiled the fleeting hours. They marked the lusty swains and lovely nymphs, and quaffed to the well-remembered transports of the connubial bed. They blessed the rising generation, and saw, with raptures ineffable, a future progeny spring from their former joys.

Thus innocence and nature, gaiety, delights, and transports, unknown to our dull feasts, tempered and enlivened the luxurious banquet ; while Virtue, like an adamantine rock, stood before each guilty thought, and every vicious action.

Such were the manners of ancient hospitality, and such the luxury of former times, as fages tell, as poets sing, and history records.

Before we endeavour to give the contrast to the foregoing traits of the luxury of former times, as it is exhibited in the manners of the present æra, we cannot let slip this opportunity of intimating to the Reader the perverseness and impetuosity of our imagination, which, contrary to all the established rules of diction, will, every now and then, when the subject of our contemplation fills our intellect with gay or violent ideas, rise upon stilts, and

and produce in our style a medley of neither prose nor verse, so that it may appear to the refined speculator unwarrantable, lawless, and confused. All that we have to urge in our defence is, that if the loose and disjointed thoughts, thus incoherently produced, fill the mind of the peruser with a lively display of our subject, we must leave him to cavil at the means by which he acquired it, and rest ourselves satisfied that more propriety of style, and correctness of manner, might not answer the end and purport of our descriptions so perfectly as our sudden and variegated flights; and that notwithstanding the specified incongruities in our language may be reprobated

by the advocates for regularity, we hope they will present our portraits to the best advantage, and in the most striking attitudes of representation.

o

In these blessed days the pleasures of the banquet are confined within such miserable rules of decorum, that the mind, instead of giving loose to the joys of life, and to that hilarity which should naturally arise from the possession of plenty, finds itself borne down and depressed by a load of ceremony and constraint, which contracts the human heart, and destroys the very essence of convivial scenes and all the social powers.

To

To a man not initiated in the mode of enjoying the good things of this world, as it is practised by the polite and luxurious, and who, consequently, would wish to follow the dictates of nature, nothing can possibly be more dreadful than the idea of a feast.

As we would not mean to deal in paradoxes, we will rest this observation upon the suffrage of a great majority of our countrymen, who, we are well apprised, will join with us in the complaint, and consider the participation of the banquet, as it is generally conducted amongst the sublime assemblies of the fashionable world, as a terrible misfortune.

In order to illustrate the subject of our present lucubrations, suppose we conduct an honest gentleman, to whom the customs of the great world are unknown, and who, at the same time, possesses a disposition perfectly in unison with the comforts that spring from a plentiful table, and the pleasures which naturally arise in consequence of it, through a regular scenery of that parade which presides at the luxurious board of a man of fashion.

The man of nature is invited to dine with the man of fashion. He arrives at the gates of the decorated mansion.

manſion. He ſpeculates the gay lawn in front of the houſe; and wiſhes to enjoy the winding walks of the adjacent ſhrubbery. He contemplates the far-extended woods, and wants to partake of their ſhades and cool receſſes. Nature in theſe enlivening ſcenes offers her ſtore of delights, and anticipates in the mind of her ſon, an aſſemblage of her charms which he fancies will be diſplayed in the approaching feſtival.

With theſe gay-boding expectations, and with a heart as light as a feather, he advances to the front of the hall, and expects to meet his hoſt and the family, with pleaſure and eſteem in

C 4

their

their countenances, congratulating themselves upon the honour of his visit, and the happiness of his company. He finds himself mistaken. He thinks it very odd; but is well assured that some cross accident has prevented the matter. He steps up, pondering, and considering, until he reaches the entrance of the spacious mansion. He wonders the family did not see him all this time, and is astonished at the behaviour of the servants, who cross the court and passages without noticing him in the least degree, except now and then, with a casual look askance, intimating curiosity and contempt. With a mixture of dismay and indignation, and
a slight

a slight reflection or two upon the dreadful contrast between the reception he gives his own friends, and his present situation as a visiter, he adventures to call aloud for the master of the house, and to announce the occasion of his being there.

This very necessary business being executed, he has the mortification to find that it serves only to increase his embarrassment; and that the servants, instead of running, neck and heels, for their master and mistress, as he expected they would do, very gravely demand his name, and, without the least seeming hurry or confusion in their deportment, leave him to his own contemplations.

strange species of salutation pass from figure to figure, without any ceremony for so much courtesy. He listens to some intermitting flashes of conversation, but cannot make out any point in view, nor devise the mode in which they are expressed. Every object appears to him unnatural and constrained, and he loses, in the contemplation of these heterogeneous animals, the pleasure which examination of the human intellect affords.

He turns his mind to inward contemplation, and proves to himself that trees are conversable, that groves are eloquent, and that his cattle have

more meaning in their manner, expression in their look, and rationality in the whole tenour of their conduct, than the present company.

Just as he has determined this point, and acquired resolution enough to wait the event of things and circumstances, the gay master of the house appears, in all the pride of precedence, and vanity of address; while our hero is suffocated with astonishment and indignation, at his receiving but one slight scrape of the foot, embellished with a grin, and that only at a distance, as a sufficient testimony of a hearty welcome. He wishes himself at home, and curses his

his folly for leading him astray ; but finds that the more he strives to disengage himself from the difficulties that surround him, the faster he is bound by the shackles of constraint.

Since things are as they are, and he perceives, to his great mortification, that he must go through with the scene, and that there is now no receding from the adventure in which he had embarked, he wishes to transact the business with some degree of propriety, and strives to modulate his deportment to the humour of the company ; stamping, at the same time, in the inmost recesses of his heart, a fixed determination never to suffer himself

himself to be drawn into such another scrape, should the Indies be offered to him as a compensation for the sacrifice.

These thoughts and resolutions having reconciled, for the present, our hero to his situation, and composed, in some degree, the disorder of his mind, he enters into the nature of this new stile of festivity with a better grace, and cuts no contemptible figure in the circle. He begins to smile at those innovations in manners which at first made him angry, and marks the progressive steps to the summum bonum of all things—the dinner, with precision and temper.

He

He makes such comparisons between the demeanour of the present company, and that kind of behaviour which his own ideas and recollection offer to him, as might be expected on such an occasion, and from such a visiter.

There being no possibility for a man to render himself, by his conversation or talents, respectable in these polished assemblies, our hero finds himself at leisure to make his comments undisturbed.

He resumes his place affectedly, and sits in a pseudo-elegant position; but is ready to burst with the idea of
his

His new-modulated figure. He stifles the risible emotions as well as he can, and feels the consequence which his first attempt gives him in the assembly, to whom the *manner* of doing any thing supersedes the thing done, and gives the greatest importance to the most trifling or ridiculous transactions. He perceives the *idea* of the Graces to have affected the graceless, and to have produced in the outward behaviour of the most notorious debauchees the affectation of delicacy. He is struck with the effeminate mode of address, and listens to the lisping accents of the company. He finds that they have nothing to say to each other; and perceives the attempt is

made only to captivate the senses by the *exquisite* polish of their demeanour. Their vacant smiles and dimples, their delightful approaches and retreats, their graceful circumspection with respect both to time and place, and the strict caution which is observed not to incommode each other upon the important business of passing and repassing from their several seats, together with the sweet apologies that are made after every mistake of the foot or the body, afford our hero a rich fund for contemplation, and rivet him in the farther investigation of the scene.

He

He collects himself into the small compass of an individual that has nothing to do in the society but to sit still, and whose thoughts are very differently engaged to those of the company. He acknowledges, in his reveries, that the ease and comfort of each other, in all parties, especially of pleasure, should be consulted in a general and most extensive sense; and that there is a certain *etiquette* in the performance of the offices of civility, which distinguishes the gentleman from the clown, and which embellishes every action of the liberal and superior order of the human species; but he cannot perceive the least tokens

of the accomplished gentleman in the multiplied and ridiculous formalities which operate in the present assembly, and which have plunged him into the most unmerciful state of dependence.

Instead of traversing the room at liberty, he finds himself fixed in one spot, and unable to exercise any powers, except his thoughts, which he might employ with as much freedom in a prison.

The constraint which prevails on all sides makes the company appear to him like an assembly of devotees, entirely at the will of the host, and dedicated to the performance of some sacred

sacred rites in honour of his superior
 dignity. He finds himself under
 such absolute tyranny of example,
 that to deviate an inch from the most
 limited line of action would draw
 upon the transgressor the most un-
 bounded censure and disgust. He
 cannot, for the life of him, help
 laughing at his being stationed amongst
 a set of decorated statues; and is
 obliged to hide his face and his emo-
 tions, as well as he can, from his
 brethren in captivity, lest the disco-
 very should end in his destruction.
 He is ready every minute to burst
 out of the room, and at all adven-
 tures to seek for liberty in the fields.
 He begins to grow wretched and

despondent, and bemoans the loss of those joys and comforts which he experienced in the society of his friends.

Where, says the man of nature, is the good and generous *Philotas*, and his family, that waited with anxiety for my arrival at his feast, and conducted me, exulting and delighted, to his company? Where are those rational and benign beings, who received me from the hands of our gracious host with the endearing marks of cordiality; and who strove with genuine acts of civility to make me happy, and to ingratiate themselves in my esteem? Where is that ease and

and politeness which, without seeming to controul the company, kept up the necessary rules of decorum, and established the fullest idea of respect, without invading the remotest conception of independence? Oh! shocking reverse, exclaimed the man of nature, I am imprisoned in a gaudy mansion amongst a gilded collection of slaves, without the possibility of speaking one rational sentence, or changing my place in the room, but at the risk of being despised by the most despicable of the human species.

In the midst of these reflections, and at the time his craving appetite is on the brink of inflaming his

passion, and urging him to ask for—
 supply, even at the hazard of being
 condemned as the most vulgar dog
 that ever was admitted to the exquisite
 delights of waiting with a set of stiff
 formalities two hours beyond the usual
 period for a dinner, the alarum-bell
 rings, the *gentleman* to the *gentleman*
 appears, notice is given that the
 feast is ready, and the most ridiculous
 display of precedence operates, on
 all hands, in the momentous march
 from the present scene of our hero's
 lamentations to the luxurious ban-
 queting room; where the feast and
 nymphs of the household are prepared
 for the reception of the devoted
 train.

On

On the entrance into the stately apartment, which is executed by each individual with a circumspection that borders upon superstition, the man of nature is astonished to find that the lady of the mansion must have been at home long before his arrival, notwithstanding he had never heard her mentioned by the company, nor perceived any tokens of her existence. He is struck with disgust and regret, on his attempting to pay her his devoirs with the genuine marks of an open heart, to find that she very slightly notices his approaches, and leaves him to fall into his place in conformity to the preceding precise
and

and nicely-regulated mode of deportment.

The lady and the smirking nymphs of her train, take the head of the board, and begin the labour of eating. The lord of the feast is seated at the bottom; and the guests are fixed on each side. The dishes are numerous but undistinguishable; and not a morsel of plain food is to be perceived. The pestilence of cookery has expelled the natural juices from every piece of meat upon the table, and substituted in their room the refined admixture of extraneous and unwholesome sauces. The natural flavour of every kind of animal substance

stance is totally absorbed by the strong and poignant relish of the stew-pan and its ingredients; so that none but acquired and debauched appetites can partake of the feast with any degree of satisfaction.

The genuine food of man, in every branch of it, is contaminated by preparation, and there is no difference to be perceived in the taste of the different articles upon the table, but that which is given them by the cook. A piece of rotten mutton, therefore, will make as good a dish, upon the scheme of *made dishes*, as the finest haunch of venison in the kingdom; and a limb of a cat will do as well for a nicety, as

as the leg of a rabbit ; there being no specific criterion by which you can distinguish the food you are eating, so entirely is it disguised by preparation and pernicious fauces.

The man of nature surveys the table, but sees no food that seems to to be destined for the human species. He observes the company are helped in their turn, but cannot make out what it is they are going to devour. He stifles his suggestions, until, after long waiting and much anxiety, a plate of something is offered to him for his perusal. He turns the contents of it over and over again, but is farther off the investigation of the
 matter

matter upon every trial of his skill. He adventures to administer a part of it to his mouth, and, at all hazards, to run the risk of being poisoned rather than to incommode the strict regularity of the scene before him. His palate takes the alarm on his first attempt, and his feelings co-operate in the attack. His stomach revolts at the contaminated morsel, and his appetite sickens at the prospect. He casts an hopeless eye about him in search of the rich *sirloin*, that noble emblem of ancient hospitality, but finds, to his utter confusion and dismay, the glorious guest which used to decorate the head of the table, is now banished even the side-board.

No

No resources being left him, he makes a virtue of necessity, and, out of the numerous articles, all totally new and insolvable, which are offered to him, he picks, and picks, until he has completed the arduous task of eating in state, without the satisfaction of gratifying the calls of nature.

During the long intervals which the different courses create, he animadverts upon the scene, and calls forth the powers of reflection to compensate for the total annihilation of every other enjoyment.

He

He ridicules in his mind the preposterous parade of the entertainment, and the unconscionable length of time it takes the guests in the dispatching of a meal. He perceives nothing but a profusion of expence, without one salutary dish upon the table. He observes luxury in the most pernicious sense of the word, and calculates the amount of the treat to an enormous sum. He sees an hecatomb of hot and corroding dainties, more costly than as many oxen; and remarks that the extravagance of the banquet, in expence alone, is the prevailing object with the host. He laments, with a falling tear that impends upon his

manly

manly cheek, the dreadful effect which this refinement in manners must have upon the future welfare of his country, and sighs for the fate of posterity.

He casts his eyes over the servants that entirely encircle the table, and perceives their cloaths to be much more costly than their master's, and that the upper ones, more especially, have as much the appearance of gentlemen, not only in their dress, but in their behaviour, as the company.

Amidst the many and various passions which alternately agitate the breast of our hero, he cannot help giving

giving way to the risible emotions, on his noticing the exact consanguinity which there appears in the manners of the man of fashion and his gentleman. So nicely do they seem matched, in every respect, that it is impossible to distinguish the master from the man, by any other criterion than their different offices at the table. So contemptible are the manners of a gentleman when they are reduced to any particular mode, or fashioned by the reigning habits of the times, that a fellow without brains or education can put on the character, and wear it with as much dignity as a lord.

with his boon companion the *sirloin*, from amongst these polished sons of festivity, he supplies his place, occasionally, with a glass of Madeira, which is the only substantial spirit upon the table. He begins to wax warm, and to chase from his mind the traces of his former vexations. He ogles the female figures at the head of the table, and thinks of a thousand things concerning them; but just as he fancies himself to have arrived to the summit of delight in the participation of their sprightly converse, and the jollity of a merry freak, or a jocund dance, with all the appurtenances thereunto annexed, lo! the lady of the mansion rises, the company take the alarm, and

and our hostess, with her nymphs, leave the room in all the state and formality of a gilded train of puppet, wire-conducted queens.

The man of nature is confounded: he makes an effort to follow them; but finding himself wrong, and that the men fall immediately into their seats, he follows the example, and waits the impending manœuvres, which appear to him so mysterious and unnatural.

A new scene of horror takes place of the preceding calamities in the breast of our hero. He finds the curtain is dropped, the restraint is

now at an end, and the company display their real characters. He perceives himself to be amongst a set of debauchees, who reciprocally discover their disasters in the wars of Venus, and speak of the most voluptuous, and monstrous scenes of life, with an effrontery and indifference shocking to the most distant idea of delicacy and decorum. He looks upon them as poor creatures who pretend to that noble character of the gentleman, which is not to be supported without dignity of action, and honour of principle. He is shocked at the meanness, poverty, and depravity of their conversation, and curses their base and unmanly pursuits. He is
 fortunately

fortunately diverted from giving immediate tokens of his disgust by the entrance of a train of lackies with the card-tables; and finds exercise enough for the dreadful uproar of his passions in his remarks upon the ensuing scene.

All constraint and conformity is entirely over with the man of nature. He has lost all deference for the man of fashion and his guests, in the discovery of their principles and their profligacy. He flatly refuses to play, and stays but to be convinced of their being a set of pick-pockets and gamblers.

The avidity with which the different groups seize the weapons of destruction, the monstrous sums which are staked upon every shuffle of the cards, and the ruin which awaits the unfortunate at the tables, present a scene to the man of nature truly distressing. He shudders at the vice and folly of the company, and leaves it, abruptly, with the most glaring marks of his indignation and contempt.

C H A P. XXIII.

ESSINGS of the CARD-TABLE.

In former days the card-table was
 never introduced, nor even thought
 of but at Christmas; when it ap-
 peared for a short season only, and
 acted as a merry guest to enliven the
 hours of festivity. It supplied the
 place of the tabor and the dance, and
 added variety to the scenes of mirth
 and jocularity. It gave the nymphs
 and the swains the opportunity of
 exercising their talents and temerity
 in the sprightly game of *loo*, and
 afforded

afforded the laugh, the gibe, and the jest, to the jocund circle. The lasses, arch and demure, knew how to create the *flush*, and the youths scrambled for the *pam* which lay concealed amongst the petticoats of the fair-ones. The sum which was staked bore no part in the contest, but joy and exultation was the prize; while the old bachelors, and the shrivelled *tabbies*, preferred the sober game of whist, and raised the laughable squabble over the loss of the rubber, and the monstrous sum of sixpence.

As the country grew polite the card-table became fashionable, and occupied a share of the summer amuse-
ments

ments in the polished assembly. Games of address and dexterity superseded the simplicity of the old ones, and the stake became the only object in view. Hilarity was banished the board of chances, and painful anxiety, sat brooding over the fate of the game. The sordid passions took the alarm at the consequence of the risk, and Avarice presided in the circle.

This innovation in manners, on its first appearance, gave occasion to so much censure, and proved itself such an unnatural intruder upon the entertainments of society, that it was a long time confined to the pleasure parties.

parties of the great, and condemned by the rest of mankind as a most pernicious and contemptible enjoyment.

Notwithstanding all the opposition which the card-table met with from the natural feelings of mankind, as the annihilator of conversation, and the destroyer of merriment and jocularity, yet the influence of the *hydra fashion* overpowered every other consideration, and it soon became the general and most acceptable guest in all companies of genteel resort. The furor of example spread itself like a pestilence over the land, the card-table supplied the place of every other amusement, and with regret and indignation

dignation let me add, that it is at length arrived to the exalted eminence of being the plague and disgrace of this country.

The poor and detestable attendant upon the ancient gossips, and the cold and unimpassioned reptiles of society, the poverty of whose talents, and the insignificancy of whose characters, could not render them acceptable in the sprightly and animated scenes of pleasure, engages, in these delightful times, the entire attention of the most exalted of the human race, sullies the wreathes with which fame encircles their brows, and plunges them into the most dishonourable course of life.

The

The miserable influence of the card-table, and the prevalency of habit and of example, have at length excited a new species of magnanimity in the opinion of our men of genius—To risk immense sums upon the display of his vast abilities at the game of *piquet* or *all-fours*, or upon the exquisite discernment which is necessary to accomplish the astonishing enterprise of producing the best trump before the applauding circle, is the criterion by which the gentleman distinguishes himself from the clown, and the mark at which he aims in order to acquire the glorious esteem of his compeers.

The

tion, by the salutary application of the pillory or flagellation.

Peace be to those poor souls, who, led on by the pestilence of example, and the manners of a silly and profligate generation of coxcombs, have ruined themselves and families in support of this false idea of the gentleman, and in the god-like temerity of risking their thousands amongst a set of sharpers: let contempt and beggary be their reward. We mean not to add the dart of satire to the sting of remorse, but only to warn the unwary by the terror of example; and, if that will not avail, to prove, by precedents, and the suffrage of

every man of real honour in the kingdom, that gaming, except for trifles which bear no weight in the contest, is truly characteristic of the fordid vagabond, who has not one grain of the gentleman in his composition; although it has been and still may be practised, through the all-powerful influence of custom, by the most liberal of mankind.

Were it not for such characters as the generous and undesigning, who have not sufficient strength of mind, nor magnanimity of independence, to withstand the slavish compliance with the ruinous habits of the times, there would be no gulls for the sharks to devour,

devour; no sharpers to prey upon the credulity and weakness of the nobly born and bred; no gamblers to grace the delightful assemblage at our watering places; no crouds of well-dressed nobodies that nobody knows to dignify and adorn the fashionable scenes of high life, nor any but gentlemen, and men of reputation, to be seen at the public stations of polite and general resort.

As the case now stands, the baths and pleasure parties of the rich and luxurious are the markets for all sorts of undertakers and adventurers, who flock to these scenes of dissipation like hungry beasts of prey in search

of whom they may devour. They appear as wolves in sheep's cloathing, are careffed and fondled by the admiring circles, fleece at will the silly and undiscerning, and compose the most respectable part of these monstrous and discordant collections.

If that which has been frequently urged be true, that men of reputation really fall into the practices of the necessitous herd of gamblers, who cannot exist by any other means than what is termed their wits; and that the first characters in the kingdom are absolutely as deep proficient in the over-reaching chicanery of the science as the regular professors, and
make

make the same uses of their knowledge as the meanest of the tribe, why then we have a truly noble generation of nobles, and the English gentleman is a pitiful character.

The card-table is now the only resource for amusement in all assemblies, either public or private. It is entirely systematical. Every other species of entertainment is exploded; and high betting, great risk, and monstrous loss and gain, is become characteristical of the English mode of spending the hours of relaxation.

Hence our public rooms appear like so many collections of decorated

monsters, intent and sharp set upon the destruction of each other. The numerous tables which promiscuously fill the spacious halls, seem like so many centres of misfortune, and the surrounding parties as the eager purloiners of pelf. The certain and indelible property which every individual enjoys from inheritance, or the blessings of honest industry, is grasped at with the ferocious talons of a beast of prey, and seized without remorse. No sprightly joy springs from the various contests but that which is derived from another's woe, and "grins most horribly a ghastly smile."

The

The numerous parties at the card-tables which decorate our public rooms of fashionable resort, look so much unlike the semblance of mirth and good company, that they seem, as they really are, different circles of enemies who are striving, with all their finesse and powers, to pick each others pockets. Dreadful anxiety sits brooding upon the brow of each individual: impending loss or gain produces a shocking display of the most sordid of the human passions, and exhibits a striking contrast to the pleasures of social life.

The terrible effect which the card-table has upon the idea of female softness and gentleness of manners is truly lamentable. It absorbs the very essence and loveliness of the woman, and changes the portraits of beauty into the figures of mischief and artful design. It gives them the semblance of furies, prompt by lucre to sell the birthright of their native innocence and simplicity. The masculine powers which are exercised in the prosecution of gaming distort the female face, defile the delicacy of the sex, and change the angelic forms of youth and beauty to the likeness of hags and sprights; and produce such a
pro-

profligateness, and vicious turn in their deportment, that borders too much upon the prostitution of their charms to bear a farther display of the grievance.

So extensive and forcible is the prevalency of example, that the vicious practice of gaming pervades all ranks and orders of his majesty's subjects. Tradesmen and shopkeepers catch the contagion: they bet their fifties with astonishing temerity, and boast of their being polite and exceedingly clever in the publication of their losses. As these fellows know the value of money, they ought to be set in the stocks, upon every transgression,

gression, for their folly, impudence, and presumption.

The principles of gaming are derived from the motives of avarice and the meanest of the human passions. The incentives for wagering, in any manner, centre in the wish to deprive another of his money, to reduce him to distress, and to exult over his losses and his ruin; to add to the crime that of rioting in his fortune, by the fate of chance or foul play, and to raise a transient source of happiness upon the misery of a neighbour.

The principles of the card-table are beggarly, illiberal and criminal; beneath

Beneath the character of the gentleman and the man of honour; and meet only for the associated thieves, and profligate plunderers, of society—the
GAMBLERS.

Mean and despicable is the passion for the card-table, It annihilates every virtue of the human mind, and calls forth the most sordid emotions into action. It fixes the keen and sharp-set eye of the villain upon the fortunes of his friend, and hardens the heart against the calamities which it produces. It overturns the claims of equity, and stamps false principles of honour in the breast of man. It
 banishes:

banishes all the exquisite feel
 which dignify our species, and c
 soft pity, good-will, and tender
 from the affections. It imprints
 indelible marks of avarice and
 position upon the countenance o
 votaries, and proscribes the blest
 of confidence from society. It
 cites enmity, malice and strife amo
 the sons and daughters of plea
 and creates a pick-pocket, glo
 war in the hours of festivity.
 productive of nothing but pei
 and mischief, and is carried, in t
 unworthy times, to such an ex
 vagant length, that it requires
 severest tokens of wrath and

ter

tempt, from the exercise of the
 scourge of law as well as the rod
 of satire; to chase the vile pestilence
 from the community.

CHAP.

C H A P. XXIV.

CAUSES and EFFECTS of CORRUPTION.

TRULY entertaining is the application of the mind in the business of pursuing the regular progress of those refinements which take place in a community on every advance from its obscurity, until it arrives to the summit of its power and perfection, to that particular crisis which determines the boundary of its greatness, and from whence, as nothing in this world continues in a settled equilibrium,

trium, it declines of course until it sinks into oblivion and contempt.

The blazing communities of Greece and Rome, which form such a considerable part of ancient history, are now extinct; and no traces besides their story are to be found of their existence, except a few scattered monuments of their fame which the insatiate thirst of the antiquary produces, by ransacking his brains and the bowels of the earth for his proofs. Catacombs, amphitheatres, and temples lie buried beneath the spiring edifices of the present generation, till some happy concussion of Nature involves the whole in one general ruin,

to

to the great joy and comfort of the
adventurous investigators of antiquity.

That Old England has had its beginning, has advanced through many storms and tempests to a superior degree of eminence, and that it must fall some time or other, like its predecessors, into the composition of an ancient ballad, to amuse and pass away the time of future generations, is certain; all history gives the sanction to the prognostication, and the present manners of its inhabitants proclaim aloud its impending fate: but whether it is arrived to its crisis of power and prosperity, to that point which must determine its process, and from

thence it must recede and pre-
 e, we will leave to abler casuists
 de; declaring it as our opinion,
 that notwithstanding the pro-
 s of a most disastrous race of
 mongers who infest this country,
 ho are vicious and hardy enough
 ar with all their might and main
 reat Britain is at this moment
 the brink of destruction, and
 is impossible she should hold
 head for the space of a month
 e, yet we do not believe a tittle
 matter; but are fully satisfied,
 our own breast, that she is
 and vigorous; that the æra of
 eclension is at a great distance;
 e will bear many shocks more
 .. II. G calamitous

calamitous than the war of America before she feels them ; and that we are in great hopes the present throes and struggles which she experiences, will serve only to rouse her profligate sons out of that supineness of manners which marks their course of life, and which is the sole grievance that ought to engage the attention of patriotism, and the only present intimation of the future downfall of this nation.

Thus having traversed the boundaries of two enormous empires, settled their rise and declension, and all in the course of a page or two, we will advert to the entertaining employment, as we termed it in the beginning of

of this chapter, of marking the steps by which the refinements in manners advance in proportion as a community proceeds towards the summit of its greatness and perfection; and which, as we have most sagaciously observed at the close of the last paragraph, is a matter of the highest importance to the patriots; since it will exhibit, in spite of all their clamours against the wickedness of ministers, who are, *perhaps*, as wicked as themselves, the only direful tokens which at present denote the approach of our destruction.

As to wars, this country has been engaged in the most bloody and fatal,

individual, so disposed, to remind the community of that which has been the case in former times, and which appears to threaten the like calamity to ourselves, from the rapid progress of our refinements in every species of extravagance and debauchery.

As we would not wish to tire the patience of the reader, in proceeding minutely over a beaten track, which has employed the judgment and labour of the most correct and assiduous of the human species to render it plain and commodious for the most heavy of the journeyers through life, we will rest our observations upon the subject
on

on the recollection of our coteremporaries; and leave them, with a few remarks, to their own conclusions; to those proofs within the compass of their own experience and remembrance, which are much more powerful and convincing, than all the historical accounts and acute reasonings in the world.

This country seems to have risen suddenly into grandeur and magnificence, if we estimate the proofs of the position by the articles of luxury, which are generally and unfortunately the attendants upon the glory and importance of a nation.

The articles of luxury we conceive to consist of equipage, retinue, and the expensive refinements of the table. All these within the memory of a middle aged man were confined to a very inconsiderable part of the community; and have increased in the course of thirty or forty years, until they are become the general characteristic of the kingdom. Gay carriages, laced servants, extravagant entertainments, which would have appeared more frightful in the eyes of our fathers, than ghosts or hobgoblins, are grown the common necessities of our existence; indispensable appendages to the high-mettled state and

con-

condition of every inconsiderable tradesman in the land ! Those streets in our country towns which thirty years ago had used to groan under the heavy burthens of waggons, and cars of business and traffic, and which seemed to listen with astonishment to the light-timbered wheels of a gentleman's post-chaise, are now entirely engaged in the conveyance of whole trains of decorated vehicles, which rattle over their pavements in gaudy parade, and which are kept by the manufacturers, in support of their dignity and consequence in polite life.

The affectation of pomp and parade is grown so prevailing, enchanting,
and

and delectable, among the middle order of the people, that a new species of gentry start up from the day-book and the ledger every day, confront the ancient nobility of the land, and cope with the first characters in the kingdom for elegance of taste, and all the appendages of family and fortune. So apt are the numerous adventurers, that whip from the counting-house to the villa, in their imitation of polite life and genteel profusion, that you cannot distinguish the tradesman from the peer, except by certain tokens of primæval meanness, which, in spite of fate and prosperity, will show themselves occasionally, and appear to the learned casuist more
dreadful

dreadful than the dancing bear in embroidered habiliments, or the clown of fortune aping the easy carriage of the well-bred gentleman.

That riches, either hereditary or acquired, are at the disposal of the possessor in what manner he likes, and that the mechanic may assume the gentleman, keep his coach and six, his villa, and his whore, may sneer at the pretended superiority and precedence which mark the manners of people of fashion, neglect his concerns in merchandize, and spend all he has, is a truth not to be controverted; but it must be allowed, at the same time, that the satirist has an equal right

THEY WERE ALL THE MORE TO CON-
SIDERED AS A NATIONAL CHARACTER IN ITS
TRUST, AND BY THE VERY PROPER
CHARACTER OF THE VERY OF BUSINESS,
WHICH WERE NOT ONLY OF THE ADVAN-
TAGE & TRUST TO BE HONORED IN THE
MANAGEMENT OF THE BUSINESS, AND IN
THE STRONG NATIONALITY OF A
GOOD SOCIETY, AND IN THE SOBER
DOMESTICS, WITH HONOR AT THE HEAD
OF THE FEEL, THE MIGHT OF TOIL,
UNTUTORED BUT IN THE WAY OF COM-
MERCE, UNLEARNED IN THE MINDING
THE FOPPERY OF THE FASHIONABLE WORLD.

That this was the character of
English merchant, within the compass
of a few years, the reader's recollection

[illegible]

with the pow-
er, the joint
league,

right to lash the procedure, to condemn it as absurd, mischievous in its tendency, and by no means the proper characteristic of the man of business, who never appears to half the advantage as when he is engaged in the multiplicity of his concerns, and in the simple, unaffected hospitality of a good substantial table, a set of sober domestics, with himself at the head of the feast, the rough son of Toil, untutored but in the ways of commerce, unlearned in, and ridiculing, the foppery of the fashionable world.

That this was the character of the English merchant, within the compass of a few years, the reader's recollection
and

and experience will evince, and that the very contrast of it is the character of the present race of tradesmen, we need only to appeal to their manners for a proof ; so that the inference which we mean to draw from these premises, discovers, in the clearest light, the luxury of the present times in opposition to former days ; and proves, upon self-evident principles, that the rapid progress which elegance and politeness, profusion and dissipation, have made in the manners of the main body of the people, looks more like destruction in the face of this country than the whole force of the United Provinces, with the powerful empires of Europe, in joint league,

league, and terrific assemblage, hovering upon our coasts.

Luxury enervates the body, debilitates its powers of exertion, and renders it unfit for martial exploits, and the arduous enterprizes of the field. Its effects upon the mind are still more dreadful. It banishes the active motive from the breast. It erases the pursuits of glory from the affections, and concentrates the passions in the gratification of sordid and unmanly pleasures. It debases the intellect, destroys the faculties, contaminates the senses, and plunges its votaries into the most detestable of all calamities which can damn a country.

It

It explodes the principles of honour, proscribes all concern but for the present moment, annihilates the morals, and sinks mankind under the pressure of CORRUPTION.

Thus our rapid refinements in expensive pleasures, our taste for delicate amusements, and all the effeminacy of polite life, and polished manners, are the indubitable causes of that corruption which we specified as the first part of our subject in the title to this chapter, and to which all our preceding observations bear witness.

The effects of corruption operate in a community, or the body politic,

in the same manner as they do upon the human frame. They produce in a country a separation of the parts which constitute the very essence of its powers of life, vigour and exertion, and conclude in the total dissolution of the whole.

The grand symptom by which this disease of a state is ascertained, consists in the heedlessness of its members about its dignity, its consequence, and its fate; in a total disregard to that love and veneration for one's native land which always inspired the breasts of heroes and of patriots, and which never was banished from the hearts of a people, but ruin, contempt, and
beggary

beggary was the consequence. It is marked by a people having no concern for the welfare of their country, laughing at the idea of posterity, and hugging themselves in the confined felicity which arises from the consideration, that the present times will serve the period of their own existence.

The subordinate symptoms, amongst many thousands more, by which we denote the effects of corruption upon a community, are exemplified in a people giving up their country upon all occasions, and the least appearance of danger; in their endeavouring to persuade one another that they are ruined, utterly undone, lost to all

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intents and purposes, and devoted to immediate destruction, upon every foreboding appearance of calamity.

As these base and ignoble principles cannot be infused into a society but by the most cowardly and vicious of the human species, we will beg leave to close this chapter with a warning to our countrymen against the wicked efforts of a monstrous gang of detestable miscreants, who, under the specious pretext of alarming the minds of the credulous with notions of a despotic exertion of our mild and happy government, and influenced by the very spirit and quintessence of CORRUPTION, are striving, with all their might and
main,

main, to draw this nation into the abominable disgrace of giving up her dignity, of submitting to her pretended fate, of pandering to the haughty claims of her offspring, and of considering herself as a poor, vile, weak, and ruined association of animals; not capable of existing as a body, but by sufferance, and unworthy to be named in opposition to other states and empires, but with contempt and derision.

C H A P. XXV.

COMPARATIVE VIEW *of* FRANCE
and ENGLAND.

THINK not, gentle reader, from the pompous title to this chapter, that we are going to enter into *an* elaborate detail of the various circumstances which mark the specific difference between this country and France, as they are exemplified in the general history of both. No, we shall not perplex our head, nor that of the peruser of our *traits*, with any thing like such a terrific combination of matter.

matter. We mean only to produce such casual reflections upon the luxury of the French, and the effect which the manners of that sprightly generation of coxcombs have had upon the customs of the English, as may answer the sublime purpose of giving a farther illustration to the series of observations which are contained in the preceding part of this volume.

The French seem by nature, their climate, or by manifold causes that would create an excellent fund for acute investigation, to be designed for empty show, for laughter without mirth, for parade without consequence, and for all the appendages to the joys

of life without any of those exquisite feelings which accompany real and substantial pleasures. They seem to be a people that are always upon the heyday of jocularly, but never in the actual possession of true merriment. Their vivacity appears to be the effect of an explosion of the affections, rather than a consequence of them; and the regular flow of spirits which they support upon all occasions, gives a material sanction to the position.

From this principle which we have advanced concerning the French, it follows of course that they are luxurious and dissipated systematically; but the passions not being in the least degree

degree engaged in the cause, their exploits centre in ostentation only, and their expence in the pursuit of pleasure bears no proportion to their affectation of magnificence..

The French have been the source of foppery, frolic, and amusement, to the different states of Europe for many generations; and if any thing but laugh, volubility, and finery, with a necessary mixture of frippery and parsimony, had attended upon their pursuits, they would have arrived, before this time, far beyond the crisis of their glory and strength as a kingdom. But whatever effects their effeminacy may have had upon them-

selves as a community, they have drawn their neighbours into such an imitation of their manners, that there does not appear to be much danger in the peculiarity of their situation.

The frippery of the French, with their shirtless sleeves, and terrific display of ruffle, their shabby finery, and the meanness of their attire, has been the source of much stage wit to this country, and the subject of general ridicule amongst the indignant sons of England for many and many years. We had used to laugh at every fopling that appeared to adopt the modes of France, and to shout at a Briton in the habiliments of that kingdom.

Baboon

man and monkey were the most
 epithets we could possibly
 put upon an imitator of the French
 in dress and manners; and
 he appeared so contemptible in
 the eyes of the natives of this land,
 an English beau fashioned by the
 hand of a Parisian taylor.

his stubborn spirit of our coun-
 try; this natal dislike to gaudy
 decorations; this innate disgust of the
 French manners is, at length, utterly
 overcome; and all degrees of our
 copy minutely the most extra-
 vagant fopperies exported from the
 continent, and conform entirely to
 the ridiculous spectacles which daily
 arrive

arrive under the article of French fashion.

One material circumstance remains in the manners of the English which denotes our difference from the French. We retain our primæval taste for substantial entertainments and attire, and have added all the polished luxury and whimsical finery of the Gallic nation, at ten times tenfold their expence. The rage of imitation carries us into the most extravagant scenes of profusion, both in dress and manners, which the French affect only. Our passions are engaged in the pursuits of polished life, and we expend immense sums in the support of it, while

while they are content with the display of luxury without the terrible consequences annexed to real magnificence: but in time, it is to be feared, we shall be obliged to copy them in every respect, and to support our glorious refinements in the French taste and manners upon the meagre fabric of affectation and beggary.

Luxury has often been defended as the friend to commerce; and no doubt while a people can support their expensive pleasures and costly modes of life, trade will receive manifold advantages from the creation of numerous imaginary wants which elegance, taste, and refinement produce. Luxury,
when

when it gets a footing in a country, travels with excessive velocity, pervades all ranks of the people, and from the time of its setting forth until it arrives to that barren precipice where Poverty stands with hollow eyes and shrivelled trunk, ready to receive the giddy, fluttering tribes, nothing can be conceived so sprightly, nor so flourishing as its devotees; nor any thing so prosperous as the sons of art, manufacture, and commerce, that pander to the high zest, and magnificent relish, of the times.

Luxury sinks a community in a general dissipation of manners; and the gentleman, the merchant, and the tradesman,

tradesman, together with the main body of the people, plunge themselves into the gulf of extravagance. Individuals upon individuals, ruin their fortunes in the pursuit of pleasure; every person of every denomination, lives up to the full stretch of his circumstances; the tendency operates upon the community at large; gains ground every day; the amazing fluctuation of property flies to distant climes; a general poverty ensues at home; commerce loses its support, and debility, contempt, and slavery, close the scene.

That this is the fate of effeminacy, refinements in taste and elegance, and that

Not many years ago the effeminate manners of the French began to operate upon the customs of English.

Our giddy youths of fortune, were sent upon their travels for improvement, used to return spectators of mirth and ridicule to the general inhabitants of this country, in consequence of their having gained nothing by their tours but an adoption of the French taste in dress and portment; and it was happy for them if they could peep from behind the curtain at the playhouse, with getting their bones broken in

atten

apt. Time, and numerous ad-
 res, in the imitation of the
 c refinements, reconciled our
 trymen to the appearance of the
 on-like representations of the
 in shape ; and they have at length
 ne so familiar to the English, that
 difference is scarcely discernible
 een a British beau and a French
 uis. It is true that a species of
 les started up, some time ago,
 r the denomination of Maca-
 s, so befigured and bedizened,
 they excited much contempt and
 nation in the breasts of the
 ig and confounded spectators,
 were most admirably depicted by
 ons of the pencil : but whether
xl. II. *I* *these*

this should be the case, both for their own dear sakes and that of their country ! except the present blustering times of danger rouse them from the lap of Folly and Dissipation, which long peace and prosperity have rendered so bewitching and delightful.

Thus, bating one circumstance only, that the women still continue to wear petticoats, the sexes have drawn so nearly together, with respect to dress and manners, in their approaches towards that point at which the different genders become altogether indistinguishable, that the females have outstript the males in the march, have past the point of coalition, have
arrived

arrived on the opposite side of the line of similarity, and appear, in their dress and deportment, much more like the tyrants of the creation, much more fit and proper for the arduous enterprizes of the field, and every manly exploit, than the present squeaking generation of animals that were formerly possessed of the prerogative of the rougher sex, but are now consigned to the more gentle offices of the toilet; have sunk under the line which stamped upon them their superiority; have no other token left them of their dominion but their breeches; and as those, with every other mark of manhood, are at the disposal of the ladies, the ladies of

this land are, consequently, the lords of it, and the British gentlemen are, undoubtedly, the ladies.

To prove this position true, we will advise the reader to make use of his own eyes and experience, and to take a view of the portraits of the different sexes, for we will be tried in this case by nothing but appearances, and we will rest our plea upon his judgment, whether the women do not look much more like men, according to his idea of manhood in petticoats, than the present effeminate foplings who croud the face of this isle; and who ought to be damned to all intents and purposes, if they presume, after
this

his notice, to continue any longer in
 breeches.

We are not without our suggestions
 that the violent asseveration at the
 close of the last paragraph will strike
 terror into the melting hearts of the
 minine gentlemen of this land, and
 ve great cause of offence to the
 lished and refined taste of the times ;
 t we hope, as it was produced in
 cause of the gentleman-like ladies
 Old England, that they will not
 shocked at the coarse phraseology.
 Our warmth in their favour, since
 y are proved by it to have gained
 summit of power and pre-eminence
 ich has employed, time immemo-
 rial,

rial, if tradition say truly, the whole force of their art and their talents to accomplish.

Tremble ye poor, thrunk, and filky papilios, that formerly were called men, and governors of the world, at the daring and terrific appearance of the lord-like ladies of this country, who have usurped the reins of dominion, and sunk you beneath the plumes of their protection, the tender and delicate charge of their prowess and magnanimity. Contemplate the greatness of their ambition, and the poverty of your spirit, in the contrast which is manifested by appearances on both sides of the question. Survey
the

the approach of a group of your conquerors, mark their masculine step, and the towering heap of matted and tremendous composition which rises from the basis of their *manly* heads, and braves the skies; looking in the face of the affrighted passenger more dreadful than the lofty helmets of the ancient warriors, more shocking than the scarified visages of the barbarians, and more filthy than the sun-dried, dungy matter upon the joles of the Hottentots.

Place yourselves, if you may be permitted so to do, by the side of these heroic heroines of our country. Think of the dwarf-like figures which
you:

you cut in the comparison ; and bless yourselves most heartily that you are not borne down or annihilated by the weight and consequence of their aspiring crests.

The Amazons of old were puny and contemptible creatures in comparison with the British fair, since they have taken upon them the manners of the rougher sex ; and an army of our countrywomen would, from their appearance only, strike more terror into the hearts of a rising race of Savages in full battalia before them, than all the improvements in war of cannons, bombs and guns !

What

What then has Old England to fear from her enemies? If our men are softened into women, our women are *bardened* into men; so that should the worst come to the worst, in these perilous times, and our foes increase and multiply upon us, we have nothing more to do but to prevail upon our women to advance upon them, in their present dreadful and gigantic mode of habiliment, and they will be sure to *fright* all opposers to the power and dignity of Great Britain into peace and obedience.

This strange and abominable figure of our fair-ones, especially in the
mode

mode of their head-dress, was exported from France, and has grown so tremendous in the eyes of true taste and delicacy, that no severity of censure and reproach, can possibly keep pace with the enormity.

The fashionable tendency among the sons and daughters of Britain of copying the French, is exhibited more ridiculously, if possible, in polite literature, than in polished manners; for the productions of the press, which are esteemed, by the *well bred*, to bear the marks of erudition, and gracefulness of style, are composed of the strangest mixture of language imaginable. There consists in our books

s of genteel entertainment such
 onstrous medley of French and
 ish, that an ordinary person that
 not perfectly understand both
 ages, will be as incapable of
 prehending the subject before
 as if it had been attempted in
 ew.

hether this exquisite refinement
 ters is beneficial to the authors
 , we will not presume to deter-
 ; but we will be daring enough
 onounce, that it is horribly ridi-
 is; although many of the French
 s, with those of any other lan-
 e, may, perhaps, be naturalized
 vantage in the English tongue.

The

The communication and intercourse between this country and the Continent, may render the learning of the French language a necessary part of education to those who are designed for public life, or general commerce: but the present rage for the acquirement of that tongue is not dictated by necessity, but the knowledge of it is looked upon as a polite accomplishment, amongst the votaries of the fashions of the times, and consequently it is established upon the basis of our imitation of the Gallic nation in every thing.

Hence

Hence our young women of spirit and fashion must be taught French, though they are unacquainted with their mother tongue, and are unlikely ever to have any occasion to make use of their heterogeneous learning, except, like all other dabblers in unprofitable studies, to appear ridiculous and troublesome to society.

We will beg leave to close this chapter with a case in point, for the serious consideration of the Frenchified ladies of England.

A beautiful young damsel, some time ago, threw at the peerless author

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of

of these sheets one of Cupid's javelins, so well and so forcibly directed, that it penetrated our flinty heart. She appeared to us, from the bloom upon her cheek, from her modest manner, and her downcast eyes, most lovely, most heavenly, and most bewitching. We were just upon the point of giving up ourself for lost, when, all of a sudden, she began to jabber French; and then the scene was changed in an instant: her bloom appeared to us as paint; her modest looks as leers to entrap, and instead of the English virgin, we now thought she had all the airs of a French coquet.

Shocking!

hocking ! exclaimed the peerless
nor of these sheers ; there is nothing
aral in this girl ; it is all affectation ;
does she seem, at any time, to be
iated by her feelings, unless it be
en she is alone or in the dark.

C H A P. XXVI.

WINTER TRAITS.

NOVEMBER, with his drizzly load of impending vapours, and falling rains; with his gloomy, saturnine, sluggish steps, hovering over the face of this isle, like the evil genius of its inhabitants, making day hideous, and night melancholy, and prompting the despairing suicide to raise the dreadful poniard against himself, is, at length, banished from the face of the earth.

The

The nipping breeze flies from the frozen north, fastens upon the congealing waters, dries up and hardens the moistened plains, and braces the relaxed and shattered nerves of the sons of men.

Joy lifts the soul aloft, the body bounds o'er the sounding roads, seems to feel a total renovation, and braves the arduous enterprize.

The busy, thoughtless boys rush to the shining pool, tempt the crackling ice, and glide exulting upon the surface of the waters; till, sad mischance, fatal as it is lamentable, stops

their mad career, and the mother
moans her drowned and best-loved
son.

Intense, severe, and cold, the frost
sets in, and deeply penetrates the
porous earth; forming a firm and
glassy substance o'er the gay canals,
that stands the shocks of hosts of
sprightly youths, in playful frolics,
various and confused.

The adventurous skaters, poised on
sharp-edged steels, wave in graceful
circles o'er the transparent plain,
despising mean pursuits, and all the
flimsy pastimes of the timorous fops.

The

The hovering fieldfare, with wings and legs benumbed, scarce dares the shortened flight, though pressed by hot pursuers: feeble and heedless he cackles from hedge to hedge, till death o'ertakes him in the unfriendly brake.

The skimming larks, in busy crouding flocks, rush round the large and open field; and after many a doubtful pause, still rising and still falling, and waving still another and another circle, at last, adventrous, fluttering, graceful, light. The panting gunner, crouching low, breathless and creeping o'er the stubble, and marking well their perked-up conscious

K 4 heads,

powers with such accumulated force, that seeming conflicts rise between the sun and planets, which shall gain the palm of brilliancy and grandeur.

The rugged roads and paths are smoothed by frequent passage. The winter nymphs, more lovely than the summer dryades, disdain the help of fire, and seek for health and warmth in the adventurous walk. At first they, shivering, creep along the plain, pale and half-starved with fear and nipping air; till soon the accelerated blood rushes impetuous through their veins, painting with crimson die their polished cheeks, and sending the heart-felt rapture to the admiring swains.

Gay

Gay and delightful is this happy season that gives to humankind the elastic powers, and flames the summer months with joys more firm and stable. The rising fogs that hover o'er the earth during the peaceful night, and cling around the leafless boughs and branches of the trees, and hedge-row fences of the fields, are crySTALLIZED against the morning's rise to such a rich display of figure and contexture, as makes the sun to blush at his own exploits, in giving radiance to the enamelled world that far excels himself.

As

As all things pass away, and changes
 ever wait upon the sons of men, in
 this their variegated state of joys and
 griefs, of plagues and comforts, and
 all the mingled happiness and misery
 that alternate take their course, stem
 Boreas ushers from the north a thick
 and settled gloom, that, spreading
 far and wide, at once o'er shades the
 lively, sprightly, blithsome scene of
 seeming never-fading lustre; and the
 world is instantaneously involved in
 deep, surrounding, dark and dreary
 melancholy.

A pause of expectation and dismay
 brings on at last the whirling fleecy
 tribes

es of congealed and flaky waters,
te and flimsy as the down o'th'
n, but cold and chilling as the
ainful shafts that pierce the rue-
lover when his mistress frowns.

All comfortless the traveller appears
ightful spectre; while the cling-
snow infolds his body, and waves
one continued transverse flux of
ed, broad, and thickening con-
se; loading and lighting the sad-
ed earth with a deep and dazzling
tance.

The aching sight, at once offended,
no distinctness in each ghastly
ect, and dainty lasses, in their best
active,

attire, seem frouzy drotchels, meet
for much cleansing in some limpid
brook.

The fierce and cutting north wind
rises, and drives before it hosts of
pelting snows, that fret the embarras-
sed journeyer on his way, and falling
raise against the obstructing hills huge
heaps in figures curious and romantic:
or, passing furious o'er the nodding
heights, are snatched in eddies down
the retiring vales, and stop, with vast
collected drifts, the course of com-
merce and the adventrous traveller.

The world being thus involved in
deep and vivid horror, and all the
wide,

wide, extensive plains being one continued glare of painful, chilling white, no transports rise but from the crackling fire, and never-failing, hospitable board. The warm and sparkling hearth, the winter tale, the humming spirit, and the sprightly dance, make Boreas join in chorus at our doors, a welcome guest thus fenced from farther mischief. He roars in vain, no entrance will be given, save when he rudely shocks the shuddering sinner that venturous dares the opening of the portal.

In this sharp cutting time how hard
 the fate of poverty and want. No
 comforts spring to fence against the
 harsh

harsh severity of cold, nor any joys to meliorate the season. The dreary cottage seems a wretched hut, where breathes, in agonizing pains, the worthiest of our race. The useful members of this wicked world seem shrunk beneath the chilling blast, unpitied and despised.

The lovely red-breast, with sharp, imploring eye, receives the scanty portion of the deserted hind. When chilling frosts and snows drive all the needy sons of want far from the stately hall, the robin ceaseless plies the humble roof, and picks the friendly offering of the pitying swain. There he resides, and tunes his little throat,
and

and whistles all the live-long summer day in grateful remembrance of his winter friend.

The shy and conscious crows, the wily magpies, and the adventurous kites, grown tame and heedless by the inclement season, approach the environs of the farmer's fold, and, hovering in the air, or sitting stupid on the neighbouring trees, or gathering close in clusters round the herds, are shot for pastime by unfeeling man, while they implore protection and relief.

The warm and cheering barn, the thrasher and his flail, the winnowed chaff that flies promiscuous round,
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exciting pleasure in the mind of man,
 and giving comfort to the starvling
 beasts, that speak their meaning in
 their peaceful plaints, draws fluttering
 round the little feathered tribes to
 snatch the blessings which are thrown
 away. The insidious shrape is scat-
 tered in the fold, the eager warblers,
 crouding, snap the bait, and while
 they, thankful, peck the plenteous
 meal, the horrid miscreant sends the
 thundering death, in idle sport, and
 wanton murderous rapture.

The timid hare, without one friend
 on earth, that meets no effort but to
 take its life, in this sad season finds
 a lone retreat, and, covered with a
 height

height of snow, lies listening underneath. However well apprized, it fails in all its guiles, since unrelenting, cruel man and beast, alike in vice as in their natures base, pursue its printed steps; and, marking well the orifice which springs from where the victim breathes, at once descend and drag the creature forth. The struggling, helpless, inoffensive thing pierces the air with cries that sting the soul, but savage man can listen and destroy.

As humankind, e'en in the worst of times, can turn misfortunes to some good account, and pleasurable scenes will rise from barren wastes, the

hardy youth make sport with nature's
 flocks, rush rapturous through her
 chilling drifts of snow, and moulding
 well the hard, concreted ball, engage
 in battles sprightly and tremendous,
 whilst ruddy lasses pelt the weaker
 side, and tender foplings shudder at
 the conflict. Happy the nymph that
 hits the unconscious boor, who, gap-
 ing, jeers the fate of grappling foes,
 nor thinks of snow-balls levelled at
 his head. All white and foaming
 strive the embattled hosts, till victory
 decides the jocund combat, till,
 covered o'er, the youths are whelmed
 in snow, and lasses feel the trick-
 ling drops rush down their panting
 breasts.

So

So fares this harsh and cruel season,
 and such the general exploits which
 mark the manners of this nipping
 time; and while the chilling blasts
 rage o'er the barren earth, a gleam of
 comfort warms the teeming mind in
 contemplation of the coming spring.

The north wind ceases; a milder
 breeze impels the softening vapours
 which, from the south, pervade the
 flinty earth. The dripping icicles
 soon lose their keen support; the
 melting snows increase the river's tide;
 the ice grows rotten, melts, and dies
 away; the world unlocked, resumes
 her wonted form, and all the drizzly,
 L 3 dropping,

dropping, splashy, sluggish times, that
drench this spongy isle, renew the
varied course, till spring return
cheers the drooping land.

Thus limps the winter on ; and thus
our hobbling prose stumbles unseemly
o'er the rugged season !

C H A P. XXVII.

P R O G R E S S *of* S C A N D A L.

WINTER, with his wet, uncomfortable, shortened days, gives the lengthened evenings, produces the warm fire, affords the quaffing hours, the social converse, the joys which spring from mutual friendships, from tales and merry meetings, from dreary nights changed to convivial scenes, from mirth-moving frolics, sprightly hilarity, convulsive laughter, from music that charms, impels, and melliorates the passions, and from the

serious, contemplative pleasures that mark the manners of the wise and grave.

In this season old gossips nestle round the fire, and pull down reputation better than their own. The young ones too, envious and ill-natured, vent their sickly spleen against each luckless lass that bears the prize of beauty and of grace.

The gaping mouth, the goggling eye, the inclined and listening ear, the posture bending forwards, denote the fell, devouring fiends, that join in savage circles, and tear the laurels from the envied brow. Up starts the
ready

ready lie; the comfort-giving imputation foul, though false and black as Erebus, finds a passage quick, and gains the general sanction. The vicious turn that marks the manners of this wicked world, gives easy credence to the worst of tales, but scarcely listens to the better side !

In former days scandal was the avowed occupation of the tea-table, and was confined amongst such trivial and worthless groups of idle tale-bearers, that its influence extended no farther than the environs of a village, or the circumference of a parish ; but in these glorious times its progress is as rapid and mischievous as lightning.

It

It flies from the point where it is collected to the farthest verge of the kingdom, and pierces the lonely habitation of the hermit.

Innumerable reptiles now make a trade of calumny, and support themselves and families by this dreadful occupation. They penetrate, like fiends of darkness, into the secret transactions of individuals, and frame out of them a monstrous medley of trash for the entertainment of the public. They sting to the very life-blood the fairest characters; they exaggerate and vilify the weaker side of the portrait, and their vile and detestable productions are the principal

cipal study and amusement of the polite and fashionable world.

The first news-papers for sale and general acceptance, are those which are remarkable for the propagation of lies and calumny; and no works of labour and genius afford half the profit to the bookseller, as the trifling and illiberal productions of the day, which blast, in wanton sport, the fairest reputations, drag private persons into public view, and load their characters with a weight of such abominable filth, that nothing but the vicious and depraved minds of a degenerate and cowardly race of culprits could suffer or attend to with patience.

A total

A total subversion of every principle of honour is exemplified in the present mode of propagating scandal. No regard is had to the injury done the object of it; no palliating circumstances produced to soften the harsh and cruel treatment; nor any shadow of a reason given to the public for the attack. The private history of individuals, which has nothing to do with the public nor its concerns is ransacked by a set of harpies, and framed into quaint, ridiculous stories for the sublime purposes of turning the penny, and gratifying the various appetites of the illiberal rufers; who are more culpable

giving countenance to such detestable productions, than the needy panders to their miserable and impoverished taste.

Let the turbulent patriots, who are eternally exclaiming against the tyranny of government, cast their dim and averted eyes upon the liberty of the press, and they must even through the thick gloom that perverts every object presented to their senses, perceive at once the folly of their complaints, since the licentious gang of scribblers that furnish our daily intelligence, ravage indiscriminately, the sacred arcana of private character, hold up to public view the domestic transact-

transactions of individuals, and level their infernal shafts with the same careless ease and effrontery at their prince, as they blast the good name of the most insignificant person in his majesty's dominions.

The private anecdotes of our dissipated youth, and our dotards, are brought to light, fashioned into garnished tales for the entertainment of society, and afford a very proper series of matter, to disgrace the annals of our country.

The first and the best characters in the kingdom are vilified and defamed in their private concerns, by this ungovernable

governable licence of the press, for the purposes, simply, of profit and amusement; and nothing in this world can place in such glaring colours the vicious taste of the times, and the liberty of Englishmen, as the forbearance of government in this abominable practice.

Scandal, as it is now carried to such an amazing height, serves only to render our countrymen callous to reproaches, and indifferent about their fame; since no virtues will secure any person from the baleful shafts of private malice, nor any precautions guard against the present avowed and daring propagators of universal defamation.

The

The present grievance is a disgrace to the community, and ought to be exploded even at the hazard of our freedom: for licentiousness is more tyrannical and mischievous than absolute government, and reduces a country to the most perilous and abject state of slavery.

Before we close this chapter upon the progress of scandal, perhaps it may be necessary to separate the province of the satirist from the encroachments of the defamer, according to our notions of liberty, under proper restrictions.

The

The vices and follies of mankind are the indisputable objects of censure and ridicule. They compose the province of the satirist, and he has a right, from precedents, and the authority of the best and wisest of the human race, to spare neither whip nor scourge, nor the most harsh and tyrannic efforts to draw them under his dominion, to cause them to tremble at his nod, the abject slaves to the terror of his sway, and the devoted objects of his vengeance.

The true satirist is never personal in his censure. He may draw single portraits that may resemble to a tittle

the manners of innumerable individuals, but if he descend to fix the stigma of vice or folly upon one only, he becomes a lampooner; except in those cases wherein a private person launches into public scenes of life, and is amenable to the community at large for his conduct.

Under this exception we denote ministers of state in their official capacity; and men in public trust, of all denominations, that regard the good or evil of general society; but not in their domestic or private concerns, which should be held sacred with the satirist.

Leading

Leading men, and men linked together in separate bodies from the community at large, such as factions and the abettors of them, are certainly as much the objects of satire as the promoters of tyranny, and are generally the most dangerous enemies to a country ; the main point of their drift being unalterably to weaken the powers of government, and to establish themselves upon the subversion of the state.

Factions, of all species, or bodies of men, are obnoxious to satire, since the very spirit of faction consists in accusation and censuring the conduct of others.

M. 2.

Philo-

Philosophers, poets, players, and authors of all degrees, are the objects of satire; but the player will never be attacked without his buskins but by the lampooner, and the author will be secure from the strokes of the genuine satirist in all things except those which relate to his writings.

In short, private character will ever be held sacred with the satirist; except in those cases wherein the domestic transactions of an individual obstruct, in a very singular and enormous degree, the general welfare of society.

CHAP.

C H A P. XXVIII.

RAGE *of* CONTROVERSY.

PLAIN reason distinguishes, in a country untutored by refinement, the palpable objects of right and wrong; and a people, not warped in their judgment by diffusive argumentation, seldom determine without precision and propriety; but when once the labellers in abstract science begin to pread their influence in society, and the logician, the sceptic, and the sophist, acquire weight and consequence in a community, the principles

M 3 of



of truth and falshood, rectitude and error, with all the simple and established rules for the well being of mankind, become vague, bewildered, and uncertain; a shade is cast over the clearest truths, supposition is decorated with the trappings of conviction, and self-evident positions are rendered absurd and contemptible.

We need only to appeal for our proofs in this case to the notable and sublime refinements of our present race of speculators upon religion and politics; the first of whom having, to the disgrace of human nature, explained away the absolute necessity of the divinity, and providence, in
the

he establishment, and continuation of the universe; and the latter, much to the edification of Englishmen, have argued the point of civil liberty with such unabating fervour of altercation, that it would take the life of man to follow them through their wonderful mazes of circumlocution, and more than the human intellect to acquire the least symptom of knowledge from their labours, or to understand, in the most trifling degree, the nature of a subject so mangled and disfigured by such a dreadful tribe of impostors.

The reason of man, in these charming times of refined speculation, is so tortured and confused in the investigation

vestigation of the clearest propositions, that there grows on each side of every simple question in agitation, two monstrous excrescences, which entirely engage the attention of the cavellers, while the main body or trunk of the argument rots and dies away in the dispute.

As men grow learned and acute in ratiocination, they despise the simple phænomena of nature: they reprobate plain truth and universal conviction as trite and contemptible; they establish their tenets upon systems drawn from the chimeras of fancy, and seek for reputation in the mazes of uncertainty and conceit: they gather a
cloud

cloud of metaphors round the first principles of knowledge, and rest the full force and energy of their proofs upon hypothesis and declamation.

There is a sweet and fatal pleasure which goes hand in hand with the improvements in abstract studies, that urges the mind of the proficient to launch from the beaten road, and to strike out something new for the purposes of engaging the attention of society, and acquiring the reputation of singularity and preternatural excellence.

From this polluted source, which is contaminated by the vanity and perverseness

perverſeneſs of the human intellect, rendered acute and precise by the labours of profound cogitation, is derived ſuch a multiplicity of terms and phraſes, and ſuch a length and terror of argumentation, in the voluminous works of the preſent race of ſophiſts, that the difficulty of gathering the ſenſe or meaning of their elaborate investigations ſuperſedes every other conſideration; and the underſtanding is ſo bewildered in the tedious examination of words, that the aſſent or diſſent of the judgment entirely depends upon contingencies too vague and indeterminate for conviction upon the ſolid grounds of truth and perſpicuity.

There

There is a peculiar zest among our fashionable philosophers in writing grammatically unintelligible. They produce an extensive stream of terms, most admirably arranged; but after the ravished and attentive reader has recovered from the trance into which the rolling tide has thrown him, and he begins to cast his thoughts about him for the sense, he perceives himself confoundedly puzzled, terribly at a loss, and if he obtains a glimmering of real substantial matter in the course of the most delightful length of period, he is exceedingly fortunate.

Words

Words were undoubtedly formed to convey ideas, and the more concise and explicit a writer is in his phraseology, or the management of his terms, the nearer he comes to the ultimate end and purport of language: but the learned delight to perplex the understanding, by casting the several propositions which they advance for the improvement of mankind in the mazes of intricate and indeterminate expressions, and in the shades of obscurity.

This procedure is that which may be entitled the Parade of Science; and answers the purpose of keeping up the
the

the dignity of letters : for were you to strip the mask of pomposity, and the terrific load of abstruse phraseology which aggrandize the voluminous works of the profound in science, from the real substance of their offerings for the benefit of society, you would find that their folios might be reduced to pamphlets ; and that the pamphlets, however excellent and cheap, would be deemed by the purchasers very dear bargains.

But while the human race is to be tickled and delighted with the strange and wonderful, the abstruse and incomprehensible, the philosophers are perhaps justified in gratifying the propensity

propensity of their patrons, by pandering to their taste, and by affording them sufficient entertainment in the laboured investigation of NONSENSE.

The mode of writing we are describing has gained ground in this country, in proportion to our refinements in every other species of luxury; for there is a luxury in our taste for writing, as well as in our relish for the pleasures of voluptuousness, which has the same effect in both; and which equally enfeebles the vigour and energy of language, and the powers of the human frame.

From

From this source is derived that universal tendency of our countrymen towards argumentation. The rage of controversy, which at present so visibly predominates in the land, is owing to a race of subtle sophists that has defiled the springs of truth and perspicuity by a deluge of misleading terms, by conclusions drawn from false premises, and by systems built and supported upon the basis of error and deceit.

All things, the most simple and self evident, are now disputed. The heroes of controversy martial themselves on the opposite sides of every prevailing

prevailing subject, and tear the *ver*
vitals of truth and perspicuity to tatters in the support of their different tenets.

Victory is the sole object with the present numerous candidates for fame in the turbulent scenes of controversy while the light of conviction is absorbed or wrested to serve the purpose of the various contending powers.

While the passions of men as they are, at this æra, excited by party, prejudice, and vanity, and the idea of overcoming the adversary supersede all considerations concerning the real state of the subject in agitation
whi

while truth and conviction are concealed by the arts of sophistry, and the success of the argument depends upon address and imposition; how is it possible that a people so misled, should discern the difference of right and wrong, or avoid the babbling cataracts of confusion!

Read, if you have patience, the political productions of the present times, and you will find the above-mentioned positions verified to a tittle: you will perceive the art and chicanery which we have specified to prevail in such an enormous degree, that the main point of every question is annihilated, truth and rectitude is

concealed from the public eye, and error and falsehood is established upon the principles of logical finesse, scholastic deduction, vehement declamation, and the mere development of pragmatistical quiddities, too flimsy, vague, and uncertain for the rational and determinate support of one position in the political world. Trivial points are laboured and insisted upon as of the greatest weight and importance; insignificant appendages to the science are made principals in the arrangement of facts, while the body of the argument, which should be conclusive, is entirely neglected, or parcelled out into a ridiculous display of never-ceasing nonsense; the mind
of

of the peruser is bewildered in the tedious pursuit of misrepresentation, in the regions of deformity and confusion; and all the settled and invariable maxims which should lead the human intellect to the clear fountains of unbiassed and genuine conviction, are disfigured, disjointed, and contaminated; whilst the presumptive evidence, produced from chimerical propositions, is insisted upon, by our present race of politicians, as the source of truth, rectitude, and reason!

Politics was ever the favourite topic of a free people, and consequently of Englishmen; who never were so free as at this time, if we may estimate

their liberty by the freedom of their debates: for the rage of controversy is carried to the same excess; upon political matters, in all public societies throughout every town in the kingdom, as in the sublime works of our pamphleteers and news-writers, and bears an exact analogy in its consequences with the productions of the press.

The strange opinions concerning politics, as they are exhibited in public rooms of general resort, are really diverting, and entirely conclusive with respect to our charge against the propagators of eternal and indefinite altercation.

Up

Up starts one casuist, declaring his sentiments upon the affairs of the nation, and positively asserts that his opinion is right; then he is knocked down by another, of quite a different sentiment, and who as positively lays in his claim for the right side of the argument; then another condemns them both, and produces fresh matter; then another, and another, all different and all right; till, at last, neither they, nor any body else, can tell what in the name of patience and good company they have been about!

C H A P. XXIX.

CHARACTER *of a* REPUBLICAN.

A GLOOMY, saturnine, sanguinary principle agitates the breast of the republican. His savage eye darts malignant flashes of destruction at the sprightly appendages of title and distinction, and he is at eternal variance with princely government, however it may be tempered by a necessary controul of the people. His restless soul is in continual broils with itself while the shadow of monarchy exists in a country where he resides, and he is
sure

sure to seek all opportunities to diminish the powers of the state, and to cavil at the administration of the public concerns. The object which actuates his mind is the love of dominion, and he is a greater tyrant in his heart than the most absolute monarch upon earth. His clamours for the freedom of his country are excited by the motives of ambition, and his only wish is to obtain the powers of controul over the generality of his cotemporaries. He cannot bear the most distant idea of restraint, and the regular subordination of good government is hateful to the arrogance of his feelings. He has no relish but for democratical confusion, and the

prospect of establishing his own consequence in society upon the general dissipation of sound policy, and the universal struggle for pre-eminence. He hopes to acquire a principal share in the management of the public concerns, and he is sure to use his power, if he obtain any, with the most insolent presumption, and all the tokens of the most unbounded tyranny.

The renowned city of *Athens* exhibited the most glaring instances of the forementioned principles of the republican. The generality of the people were in continual commotion to obtain the powers annexed to pre-eminence,

eminence, and whenever any of them had arrived to the summit of command, they used it with such arrogance, or were supposed to do so by the people, that the most remarkable amongst them for sway and abilities were brought to trial, condemned and executed by the general suffrage of the state.

The people in this turbulent commonwealth had no sooner set up an idol of their own creation, but their jealousy and general thirst for power urged them to beat down the object of their love and veneration, in order to make way for that universal claim to pre-eminence which inspired the

the breast of each individual in the community; and we find that the best and the wisest among them, whose memories will be revered to the latest posterity, and who were guilty of no crime but that of being great, were put to death by the voice of the people.

The history of Athens, so famed in story, produces nothing more than a detail of the most turbulent struggles for dominion among her sons; and the consequent vicissitudes in her government were effected by the general claim and attempts of the inhabitants at large to supplant each other in the public offices of trust, and in
that

that superiority and power which was derived from the administration of her affairs.

The struggles for power and pre-eminence among the ardent sons of Athens, excited them to the efforts of emulation: they improved themselves with the greatest assiduity and success in those particular studies which pandered to their favourite thirst for dominion; and as war was a principal department in their improvements, they have astonished the admiring world with their exploits in the field of battle. The persuasive powers of language were no less necessary in their attempts to obtain their beloved
 supe-

superiority, and they were exquisitely eloquent upon the rostrum, as well as powerful in the camp: but they were false, treacherous, and malicious; and the many instances of their baseness and cruelty which they exercised upon the noblest productions of their country, will be an eternal stigma upon their character; and evinces, in the clearest light, that a democratical or republican government is productive of nothing but eternal broils, and all the mischiefs which are derived from the violent passions of men, let loose upon one another in the unbounded and universal struggles for general sway and superiority.

Athens,

Athens, in consequence of the strenuous endeavours of her sons to emulate the greatest actions at that time in repute, particularly those of war, in order to prepare themselves for the first offices in the state, to which they all aspired, blazed forth among the surrounding nations like a pestilential meteor, pushed her influence, weak and trifling as she appeared both in numbers and territory, to the farthest verge of opposition, repelled the force of PERSIA, and made the gaudy tyrant tremble for the fate of his vast and extensive dominions; but she soon vanished like a noxious vapour: the passions of her people, while

while they were exercised in war and conquest, led her to the summit of grandeur and glory; but when once the rage of enterprize left her, the unstable mode of her constitution plunged her into domestic disputes; the passions of her people which had been long concentrated in one point, and which led her to the nodding heights of renown, were dissipated at once; she became a prey to internal strife and commotion; each individual counteracted his neighbour; the general harmony of the state lost its support by contentions; the constitution, founded upon the basis of a divided people, fell into anarchy, and she became an easy conquest to every contending

ending power, until she sunk into a remarkable and most instructive story.

The flaming rise and precipitate fall of Athens indicates to mankind, that while the passions of all the individuals in a community, under democratical or republican government, are concentrated in one point, and they jointly co-operate in the support of a country against all opposition from abroad, the spirit of emulation which fires the breast of every person in a state so determined, will produce wonders of prowess, conquest and glory; but as all things veer and change about, and glory and conquest will have their period, no sooner will that time arrive, and

and the passions of the people are left to prey upon each other, in consequence of their having no external object to engage the attention of the whole, than they dissolve with the same velocity as they were amassed, and the country falls into obscurity and contempt.

The constitution of POLAND stands upon the basis of the most refined species of liberty that can possibly tickle the talents of the most sublime and furious republican in this kingdom; yet painful to relate for the sake of the wretched subjects of that country, it was always the scene of every calamity that can attend a people

ple who have no stable foundation in their constitution to guard against the dreadful effects of internal division, nor any bulwark derived from their liberty, to prevent the ravages and insults of all the neighbouring powers. Poland has been ransacked and disjoined by every prince upon the Continent, and stands at this day a melancholy instance of the vague and indeterminate support of a country under the ridiculous principles of a government, without a sufficient power in the head of the state to prevent the baleful effects of contention amongst her people.

HOLLAND is denominated a republican state, but the Stadtholder is an hereditary prince, the powers of the government are as absolute as monarchy, and the people are slaves; and dare as soon attempt to break down the mounds which secure them from the boisterous ocean, as to take the shadow of the liberty with their rulers which Englishmen exhibit, with the most unbounded effrontery, upon every transaction of their prince, his ministers, and his parliament.

ROME has been sung and said into a glorious combination of the sons of liberty; but she fell a prey to the
system

system she produced. Her people, bred under the tenets of universal sway, aspired to absolute command: they enslaved the world; and the most remarkable among them for the freedom of their spirit, reduced her at last to the most abject state of captivity. She existed but in conquest, and when that was over she fell a prey to the ambitious and despotic principles which she had infused into the breasts of a race of the most daring, haughty, and infernal tyrants that ever disgraced the history of mankind.

From the above slight glances upon the fate of a people, actuated by what is called the genuine spirit of liberty,

it appears that there is no stable foundation for the lasting welfare of a country whose constitution is erected upon the sublime principles of democracy ; that the republican is a tyrant in his heart, and that there is not a constitution upon earth so richly calculated for the real happiness and freedom of a country, as far as liberty is consistent with a decisive and permanent display of the powers of government, as the English nation. The rights of the crown of Britain are so tempered with a just and adequate controul of the people, and the powers of government are so blended with a necessary check of the subjects at large, that the *body politic*, if it be
not

not invaded on either side of the question, will stand the shocks of every external opposition : but it is as necessary for the sons of Britannia to guard the throne, as to be jealous of their rights ; for the real freedom of this country depends as much upon the security of the king in his privileges, upon the decisive exertion of the powers of government, as upon a continual, impartial, and well regulated enquiry into the transactions of our rulers in order to prevent the encroachments of monarchy.

Liberty strained is licentiousness ;
 licentiousness produces anarchy ; anarchy ends in tyranny ; therefore this

consequence naturally follows, with respect to our *character of a republican*, that in whatever individual the principals of the republican appear to actuate his animadversions upon the British government, he should be avoided by every true Englishman, his clamours despised, and his pretensions to liberty suspected, for he aims at acquiring absolute dominion, and is an enemy to the best constitution in the world.

C H A P. XXX.

CONCLUSION.

IN the course of our Pictures of Men, Manners, and the Times, the reader will observe that we have confined ourself to the principal objects which distinguished the character of the English nation in the year 1777, with such allusions and references to former times as might illustrate our remarks. He will perceive that we have had our eye invariably upon the rapid progress of luxury in this kingdom within the compass of a very

few years, and that we have spared neither censure nor ridicule in order to decry, as far as the utmost stretch of our imagination could carry us, those pantomimical transactions which are displayed in the fashionable and refined spheres of high life, which are imitated by the generality of the people, and which must hasten our destruction, if the present shocks and convulsions in the state, occasioned by wars and rumours of wars, do not rouse the sons of Britannia from the downy bed of folly and dissipation into the seat of honour, into the most arduous and vigorous attempts to establish their country upon the firm basis of conquest and glory. He will

will likewise give us credit for the trifling Traits of the Country and Rural Enjoyments which we have interspersed, occasionally, throughout our work, and which were intended merely as a relaxation from the general tendency of our observations, and to enliven our scenery with something like the charms of variety. He will perceive that we wished to be as concise as possible in each of our portraits, in order that the whole of our animadversions should be comprised in a small compass, and that our work should not intrude upon the time or patience of the public.

England

England being engaged in a most interesting war with her Colonies, at the æra we drew our pictures of the times, politics necessarily become a particular object in our plan; and as it was manifested to all men that the refined speculations upon liberty, which were produced in this country, and which were supported by a numerous part of the people, gave encouragement, comfort, and vigour to the attempts of our offspring to shake off the yoke of dependency, and to set the Mother Country at defiance, we thought it our duty, as a lover of our prince, and a well wisher to the regular subordination of the state,

state, as by law established, to promulgate our opinions and principles, and to assert the dignity of the British constitution against the clamour of faction and the uproar of opposition; and to place, in the best light we were able, the wicked and destructive tendency of a party in the community espousing the cause of a rebellion against the constitution, which at all hazards should ever be checked by the general voice of the people, as they reverence the just and equitable principles of their government.

In the course of our remarks upon the factions against the government, in the year 1777, we have endeavoured
to

to do justice to their tenets, and have not been sparing in our attempts to correct and expose them, because it will always be an invariable rule with us to despise and condemn any opposition to the British constitution which lays its foundation in rebellion. We are well convinced that there have been no strides for absolute dominion, in the transactions of government, respecting either Old England or America, but what have existed in the furious imaginations of our malecontents; and it is to them we shall eternally lay the heavy charge of the rise and progress of the present war, and to them *only* the consequences of it, should it terminate in the disgrace or destruction of this country.

With this observation we must take leave of the present foreboding contest, and the impending and uncertain fate of this war, with all its contingencies and consequences as they may be derived from the vigour or relaxation of government, from victory or defeats in the field of battle, or from the neutrality or interference of the jealous and perfidious powers upon the Eastern Continent.

We have only to add, in our personal defence respecting our political traits, as they are exhibited in these volumes, one material principle which we glory in, and which has been predominant

dominant in every observation that we have made. But as this comes the nearest our heart of all our preceding remarks, we shall announce it to the world with the emblems of the most profound solemnity.

Be it known unto all men, that the author of this work possesses no malice in his breast against any set, sect, or body of men in the kingdom of Great Britain; that his personal acquaintance consists among all orders of his majesty's subjects, without distinction; that he loves, honours, and reveres many individuals in this country whose political sentiments are diametrically opposite to his own; that
he

he is the friend of every man, indiscriminately, in his private capacity; but in a public view, or when the concerns of his country are at stake, he solemnly declares that he will draw the quill or the sword upon every opposition to the dignity and the rights of the English constitution, though his best-beloved friends should suffer by the vigour of his exploits.

GOD SAVE THE KING.

T H E E N D.







